

I believe the best way to accomplish meaningful campaign finance reform and make Congress more accountable to the public is to encourage congressional candidates to raise more of their campaign funds from small contributions from individual donors.

The bill I am introducing today motivates candidates to rely on small contributions in two primary ways: funds from a voluntary checkoff of Federal tax returns will go toward a Citizen Representative Fund established at the Treasury Department to finance voter communications vouchers for candidates agreeing to observe the bills spending limits; and ceilings imposed on campaign spending from PAC's and large contributions will increase the importance of small donations.

Enacting lobby reform legislation and tightening gift rules have generated momentum we now should harness to pass real, comprehensive campaign finance reform. We have a unique opportunity to invigorate our democratic process, return power to voters across the country, and restore faith in the Congress. We must not let this moment pass.

If we fail to act, we will be preserving a system stacked in favor of wealthy individuals while preventing many potential candidates from getting a seat at the campaign table. Last month, press reports indicated that 11 House candidates each have used at least \$100,000 of their own money to finance their 1996 campaigns, and 26 candidates have put at least \$50,000 of their personal funds toward their races.

A hefty bank account should not be a prerequisite for running for Congress. That's why the bill I am introducing today restricts to \$25,000 personal contributions a candidate can make to his own campaign if the candidate wants to be eligible to receive the benefits provided in the bill.

The bill also tames the powerful influence of PAC's. Last summer, the public interest watchdog group Common Cause released a study indicating that in the first half of the 1995 contributions from PAC's accounted for large chunks of House candidates' total campaign funds. The legislation I am introducing today requires candidates agreeing to the bill's spending caps to limit their expenditures from PAC's to 15 percent of their total spending. That's a maximum of \$90,000 from PAC's.

To ensure that voters get the facts about candidates running for House seats, the bill makes participation in two nonpartisan debates a requirement for receiving communications vouchers. Our democracy is fueled by full and open discussions of the important issues facing our Nation, and all candidates should communicate their positions to the voters so that well-informed decisions can be made.

I have long believed that individual citizens should have more of a voice in campaigns for Congress. My bill expands the participation of everyday Americans in political campaigns through the voluntary checkoff and the emphasis on small contributions. I am hopeful that the House Oversight Committee will act on this legislation.

As people around the world strive to build democracies in States where ballots once listed only one choice for seats in a bureaucracy unconcerned with the needs of its own citizens, we need to increase participation in the electoral process here at home to maintain a healthy democratic system that is responsive to all Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ABE LEBEWOL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents and to mourn his tragic and premature death.

New York truly suffered a devastating loss this week with the death of Abe Lebewohl. On Monday, March 4, his life was cut short when a robber shot him twice as he went to the bank to make the daily deposit for his deli.

Mr. Lebewohl founded and owned the Second Avenue Deli where he will always be remembered as a hard worker, a brilliant businessman, an enlightened employer, and a distinguished community leader. A Holocaust survivor, he started the deli in 1954 as a 12-seat diner. After 42 years of hard work, Mr. Lebewohl built it to the current 250-seat restaurant that is known all over the world. Not only did the community lose a wonderful man and a great entrepreneur, but also one of the last links to the historic old Jewish neighborhood of the Lower East Side.

Abe Lebewohl greeted people by name, gave free sandwiches to homeless people or to anyone out of work, and supplies nourishment to workers on strike. He made everyone feel like family, never hesitating to give a helping hand when they were down on their luck.

The Second Avenue Deli has become one of their most popular landmarks in New York City. Almost every day, famous people come to eat and tourists often line up around the block in order to taste one of Abe's sandwiches or his soup. But more than anything, Abe's deli was a part of his community. It was his neighbors, employees, and family who stood outside of the deli on Monday to mourn his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in sending our deepest condolences to Abe's wife, Eleanor, his daughters, his grandchildren, his employees, and his friends on this most devastating loss.

HATRED MARKS PAPER TRAIL

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, during these political primaries, it is important that the American public has as much information on the candidates as possible. In pursuit of that goal, I am submitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article written for the Jerusalem Post on past statements made by Pat Buchanan.

[From The Jerusalem Post, Feb. 23, 1996]

HATRED MARKS PAPER TRAIL

Pat Buchanan has toned down his comments, but hasn't backed down, Elli Wohlgerlenter reports.

Pat Buchanan's upset victory in the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday has once again focused heightened attention on the man and his words, and on the people surrounding him in his campaign.

When two staffers in two days last week had to step down for questions that were

raised over their ties to white supremacists, it came as no surprise to Jews here and in the US who remembered what Buchanan used to say and write, before he toned down his rhetoric when he began running for president in 1992.

It goes back to the 1970s, when what began as a trickle—a snide comment here, a hard-line position advocated there—soon started snowballing until, on the eve of the Gulf war in 1990, a mini-war broke out over flagrant and vicious antisemitic comments made by Buchanan.

To recap a few: In 1976, when the Ford administration proposed selling arms to Egypt, Buchanan urged Congress not to "hearken * * * to the counsel of the Jewish lobby and its Washington representative Henry Jackson."

In 1977, when president Jimmy Carter endorsed legislation against the Arab boycott of Israel, Buchanan objected and warned that Israel would be blamed as a result when Americans lost their jobs.

He later maintained that Americans were asking "why the U.S. is siding with three million Israelis instead of 100 million Arabs who have oil."

In 1981, he wrote, "Many Americans are growing bone-weary with carrying the diplomatic, economic and military cost of underwriting Menachem Begin's policies."

Throughout the 1980s, Buchanan exhibited a fiery and indignant pose in a campaign to defend former Nazis, whomever they were and however evil their prior deeds.

As early as 1977 he wrote of Hitler: "Though Hitler was indeed racist and antisemitic to the core, a man who without compunction could commit murder and genocide, he was also an individual of great courage, a soldier's soldier in the Great War, a political organizer of the first rank, a leader steeped in the history of Europe, who possessed oratorical powers that could awe even those who despised him."

From this followed his strong defense of Nazi criminals, and his denunciation of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which pursues Nazi criminals: "You've got a great atrocity that occurred 35, 40 years ago * * * Why put millions of dollars [into] investigating that?"

There were other remarks he made about targets of war-crimes allegations, including:

When the U.S. apologized to France for sheltering Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyon," Buchanan complained: "To what end all this wallowing in the atrocities of a dead regime?"

He campaigned against the deportation to the Soviet Union of Karl Linna, who ran a Nazi death camp in Estonia, when the US Court of Appeals ruled that there was overwhelming evidence of his guilt.

On the isolating of Kurt Waldheim: "The ostracism of Kurt Waldheim [has] an aspect of moral bullying and the singular stench of selective indignation."

And of course, there was his spirited defense of Ivan Demjanjuk and his statement that he could never get a fair trial in Israel.

Alan Ryan Jr., former head of OSI at the Justice Department, said then that "Pat Buchanan is going to bat for any Nazi war criminal in the US," and called him "the spokesman for Nazi war criminals in America. His campaign on behalf of these people is so infused with distortions and misrepresentations of the facts that it's almost impossible to engage in any sort of response. He simply piles lie upon inaccuracy upon surmise upon personal attack."

Not content to defend Nazis, Buchanan shifted to questioning aspects of the Holocaust. Gas chambers could not have killed human beings, he wrote, because "in 1988, 97 kids, trapped 400 feet underground in a Washington, DC, tunnel while two locomotives